

THE LITTLE TRAGEDY.

William Parmelee, the Well Known Attorney Shoots Brakeman W. J. Condon.

Condon Dies Instantly, the Bullet From Parmelee's Revolver Having Gone Directly Through His Heart.

There Were No Witnesses to the Shooting. The Cause Said to Be Because of a Garnishment of Condon's Wages By Parmelee.

Important Testimony Being Taken Before the Coroner's Jury.

Burial To-Morrow—How Parmelee Passed the Night.

The peace and quiet of Sedalia was again disturbed to-day by one of those occurrences that shock a community and bring tears of pity to the eye.

ANOTHER HUMAN LIFE has been taken and another man must answer for the deed at the bar of justice.

The tragedy occurred at 10:30 this morning, and the scene was the law office of William Parmelee.

W. J. Condon, a brakeman, was the man who lost his life, and Wm. Parmelee, an attorney, did the deed, the circumstances leading to it being as follows:

Condon visited Parmelee at his law office twice during the morning, and it was on the second visit that he got shot.

It was about 9 o'clock when he first entered the law office and began with out preliminaries to upbraid the lawyer demanding why he didn't withdraw the garnishment that Parmelee in behalf of an Atchison conductor had filed against Condon's wages. Parmelee replied by saying that he had nothing to do with that matter, that he was only carrying out the demands of his client.

THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE TWO MEN

was heard by both Dr. M. T. Collins and A. W. Winzenburg, who occupy rooms adjacent to that in which the difficulty occurred.

The former gentleman testifies that Condon was very profane and talked in a loud and threatening voice.

HIS SECOND VISIT.

He at length departed however, and it was thought that the trouble was over when about 10 o'clock he again visited the lawyer's office and began again to make demands. The two gentlemen who heard the conversation state that he was even more abusive this time than ever and said that he would attack the train run by Conductor Hukill unless his demands were granted, accompanying which were threats aimed at Parmelee.

TWO SHOTS FIRED.

Suddenly in this confusion of voices one of the men shouted "stand back! stand back!" and then in almost an instant "hold up your hands" immediately followed by two shots fired in hot succession.

The voice was Parmelee's and he had done the shooting.

On rushing into the room, A. W. Winzenburg says he arrived in time to see Condon sinking to his knees and then tumble over limp and lifeless on the floor.

The officers were immediately ad-

vised and in a jiffy the room was crowded with excited spectators.

PARMELEE'S ACTIONS

No sooner had he begun to realize what he had done than Parmelee was prostrated with grief. He threw himself on the floor and wept like a child continuing this manifestation for several hours afterward.

THE DEADLY WEAPON

was a small thirty-two calibre pocket pistol and was taken charge of by the officers.

A THREATENING LETTER.

from Lawyer E. J. Smith. A reporter learned that the trouble was aggravated by a threatening letter written by Condon to Parmelee. On receipt of this communication in which it is alleged that most abusive and threatening language was indulged. "Parmelee," says Mr. Smith, "came to me and told me about it, saying that he thought he would have Condon arrested. He was prevailed on by me however to withhold such a proceeding. I told him the condition of the man's family, of his wife and four little babes and he didn't hesitate to express his sympathy and agree to refrain from having the husband molested."

W. J. CONDON.

the dead man, was about thirty years of age, and was a brakeman on the west end of the Missouri Pacific, running on Conductor Lafferty's train. He owns a modest place on Ninth street, three doors east of Engineer. About

NINE YEARS AGO HE MARRIED

Miss Mary Schrader, who with four children—two girls and two boys comprise his family. His father, Samuel L. Condon, lives at Springfield, Ill., and has been telegraphed for. Mr. Condon has two brothers and a sister in this city—Joe and Peter Schrader and the wife of Geo. McLain, an engineer on the Missouri Pacific. He has some insurance on his life in the Iron Hall and two accident companies—but what amount is not exactly known. The father of Mr. Condon is a resident of Cleveland county, Oklahoma. The dead man has the reputation of being a very faithful employee.

WM. PARMELEE is an attorney of the city, who has been enjoying considerable practice and is a nephew of Mr. J. C. Parmelee. About a year since he married Miss Maude Lyon, a niece of Mrs. Wm. Latour of this city, and is quite highly connected. He is one of the attorneys of the defense in the case of McCord for the killing of Burriss.

THE BODY WAS REMOVED.

to Undertakers McLaughlin, where the effects were taken in charge, and a post mortem examination was held at 1 o'clock. The facts, etc., being about in accordance with the above.

No time has yet been thought of in connection with the funeral as relatives have been telegraphed for.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST

is now being held at this date—3 o'clock p. m.

PARMELEE SURRENDERED

at once to the officers of the law and is now in custody awaiting the results of legal investigation. His attorneys are Messrs. Sangree & Lamm.

It is altogether a very sad affair and is naturally exciting the community to some extent. The BAZOO does not pretend to say who is to blame in this matter—that is for the courts to say.

LATER.

On account of Prosecuting Attorney Longan's absence the coroner's inquest was postponed till to-morrow evening at 2 o'clock.

And endless throng of humanity has been passing to and fro from McLaughlin Bros. undertaking establishment since the doors were thrown open at 2 o'clock. Save for administering the necessary remedies to preserve the body, the undertakers have done nothing to the body. A BAZOO reporter viewed the remains shortly after the morgue doors were opened

this evening. An incision a little below the right breast where the surgeon's probe was entered, and a small round hole about on a level with the apex of the heart told the deadly bullet's tale.

Condon was little below the average man in physical proportions. Poor man! Little reckoned he that such a tragic and untimely fate should be his lot and the solemn faces that viewed the corpse reflected the moral that was furnished by the casualty.

PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

No date has yet been set for the preliminary trial, but it will probably occur some time shortly after the holding of the coroner's inquest. Prosecuting Attorney Longan is absent at Independence and nothing probably will be done towards arrangements until after his return.

WEDNESDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

It is no easy matter to recover from a sudden shock. True, it may be, that time is a healer of wounds—sometimes a shorter and sometimes a larger period. At all events the tragic event of yesterday is as fresh in the minds of the people as when the leaden bullet was hurled on its deadly mission. The excitement is in no ways abated—the comment as to where the blame lies is just as varied. It was pitiful in the extreme and is a matter of general regret.

THE DEAD BODY OF W. J. CONDON, was taken to his home yesterday evening at five o'clock by Undertaker McLaughlin, and was watched over during the night by sympathizing friends. He had left in the morning full of life and activity—at night a mass of clay was carried across the threshold.

THE STRICKEN WIDOW.

Words were never intended to express the grief of one who has suddenly been deprived of a life companion. Suffice it to say that Mrs. Mary Condon is completely prostrated and almost crazed. Added to this it appears that there is but little, if any, of the world's wealth left to her. It was thought yesterday that at least a thousand or so insurance would come to her, but an investigation proves the hope almost groundless.

THE FATHER.

Soon after the occurrence, the father, Mr. Samuel Condon, of Springfield, Ill., was telegraphed for, and as fast as steam could convey him he hurried to the city. He arrived here this morning, and his grief was intense.

HOW PARMELEE SPENT THE NIGHT.

Nothing eventful transpired in the room where Parmelee stayed last night. He slept in an upstairs room of the Sheriff's dwelling with Deputy G. W. Barnett.

After supper he smoked a cigar with seeming enjoyment, read a little and after brooding silently over his troubles retired at 10:30. He slept soundly through the night, not awakening till 7 o'clock this morning. After breakfast in company with the deputy sheriff he took a walk and on returning to the jail spent the remainder of the forenoon reading and consulting his attorneys Messrs. Sangree, Lamm and Steel. He was also visited by several friends who acted as mediums of communication between himself and wife.

Mrs. Parmelee has not seen her husband since the shooting occurred, and has manifested great fortitude in complying with his request to remain at home till further developments are made. He was taken from the parlors of the sheriff's dwelling at 2 o'clock and conducted to the court house.

A reporter for the BAZOO was present when the prisoner made his exit. He merely nodded his head when he saw the reporter and said not a word.

He was still nervous and was deathly pale.

THE BURIAL.

while not under the auspices of any particular society, will undoubtedly be largely attended for the reason that he not only had many friends but a natural sympathy pervades the human heart which goes out toward those in distress. It will occur at 2 o'clock to-morrow evening.

THE PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

The time for the preliminary trial will not be decided upon until after the coroner's inquest which is still in progress. It is thought, however, that it will follow in a day or two. The inquest was attended by hundreds and so will be the preliminary trial.

PUBLIC FEELING.

In reference to this sad affair it is impossible to analyze the public feeling. Each have friends and sympathy naturally is divided in that direction. Among those to whom both were unknown opinion is likewise divided just in proportion as to the manner in which the circumstances reached their ears.

THE INQUEST.

At 2 o'clock a large audience of citizens filed into the criminal court room to-day to hear the evidence as introduced before the coroner's jury in the Parmelee shooting case.

A delay was occasioned by sending for the accused who was at the county jail.

Henry Lamm and W. D. Steele attorneys, appeared to protect the interest of Mr. Parmelee, while Prosecuting Attorney Longan was present representing the state. It was 2:30 before Mr. Parmelee was brought into court, walking between Sheriff Smith and Deputy Sheriff Barnett.

The witnesses were called and sworn. The first witness called was A. W. WINZENBURG.

Folding doors are between my office and Parmelee's office. Yesterday morning, about 10 o'clock, I was in my office and heard a pistol shot in Parmelee's office. Started in there and heard another shot instantly. Went in Parmelee's office and saw Parmelee standing behind a book case with a pistol in his hand and a man (Condon) falling to the floor. I said, "Bollie, what did you shoot this man for?" He said: "He threatened me and I shot him in self defense." By this time Condon was stretched on the floor, and I said: "I will go for a doctor, this man may not be dead yet." Parmelee said, "No, stay with me and send some one else for a doctor." By that time a crowd had collected and I sent a man for a doctor. After the first shot was fired, I heard Parmelee cry out "stand back, stand back, hold up your hands." Condon never said a word after I entered Parmelee's office. He was dead in about ten minutes after the first shot was fired. Parmelee said nothing more to me. Parmelee was about in the center of the room when I entered. Condon was south of the stove, in a corner of the room when I entered. Heard some talking before I entered the room. Condon was talking very loud a minute or two before the first shot. Could not understand the conversation. It was very short. The conversation was very excited and passionate. There were two voices engaged in the excited conversation. Heard no trouble in the office before that occasion. Was in my office most of the morning. After the shooting an officer arrested Parmelee. When he was arrested Parmelee wept.

Dr. J. A. Grimes testified as follows:

"About 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning I was summoned to the law office of Wm. Parmelee. Saw W. J. Condon lying on the floor. Examined his pulse found none at the wrist. Turned the body over and found a bullet hole in his vest on right side. I undid his clothes and found that ball did not enter the body—only made a red spot on the abdomen. Found another ball had entered at the tenth rib on the left side from the back, passed through the heart and lodged under the skin. Death ensued in ten minutes from this wound. Parmelee was walking around the room. When hit by the fatal bullet, in my opinion, Condon was either stooping over or the pistol was fired from a low range. If Parmelee was standing erect, Condon was stooping over with his back to Parmelee. Condon, when shot was standing close to the stove. One of the two must, necessarily, have been stooping when the shot was fired or the pistol must have been lowered. There were two tables in the room. I saw the first ball after it was picked up on the floor.

THE PISTOL.

was here introduced in evidence by Prosecuting Attorney Longan and admitted to be the weapon.

FRANK BARNETT

testified as follows: About 11 o'clock I went up in Wm. Parmelee's law office and saw a man (Condon) lying on the floor, bleeding and groaning. He never spoke. Parmelee was walking the floor. He handed me a pistol and said "I killed that man with this pistol. Take me to the prosecuting attorney's office." Prosecuting Attorney Longan here

showed Barnett the fatal pistol and Barnett identified it. It was a self-cocking 32 caliber revolver, with a barrel about one inch long. It is a five shooter. Two barrels were empty and three loaded. The pistol was shown to the jury who took and handled and looked at it. At Mr. Lamm's suggestion Barnett took out the three remaining balls and gave them to Mr. Longan. Barnett continued: I picked up the ball that was first fired, off of the floor. Here it is—(turning it over to Mr. Longan.) Yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, Jim Gossage pointed out Condon to me and said: "If you see that man go towards Wm. Parmelee's office, watch him. He has threatened to kill Parmelee."

DR. M. T. COLLINS

testified: A few days ago a man came into my office, which is on the same floor as Parmelee's office and said: "The police are watching me but I don't know what for." The man was Condon. He went down. I went out and saw three policemen at the foot of the stairway. Yesterday morning about 9 o'clock, I heard a man in Parmelee's office, cursing, swearing, abusing and talking very loud. It seems from what I heard the man wanted Parmelee to release a garnishment. Parmelee said he couldn't release it, that it was in other parties' hands. Heard the other man (Condon) say "I will give you thirty minutes to release that garnishment and if you don't I will make you hunt your hole." Also, "if you don't release you will never get a cent any way. I am going to mortgage my home for \$400 and then go to Kansas and make all you sons of bitches hunt your hole." The man went away then. I went out on business, came back about an hour later and Condon was dead in Parmelee's office. Parmelee was sitting on the sofa, his head resting on his hands. There were two or three other men in the room. Condon was lying on his back. He was a small man—would weigh about 135 or 140 pounds. Parmelee sat down in a chair and cried. I examined Condon and found he was dead. When Condon was in Parmelee's office I heard him say three times: "God damn you, are you going to release that, or not?" He said it in a threatening manner. He said it must be released in 30 minutes and that it should have been released the night before. Could not hear all the conversation.

WM. CRUM

testified: Last Friday I was in Parmelee's office. A man knocked violently on the door and almost instantly threw it violently open. Parmelee was sitting in a chair. The man came up to Parmelee and stood over him with his right hand in his overcoat pocket and said: "God damn you, Parmelee, if you don't withdraw that garnishment I will make a full run of you or make you God damned hard to catch. I will give you thirty minutes to do it." He then went out. After he went out I asked Parmelee what he intended to do. He said "I don't know, I am afraid of that fellow." I went out to hunt a policeman. Saw two of them near the First National Bank and told them what occurred and asked them to go and watch the stairway. They went over to Parmelee's stairway and stayed there. I did not know the man who said the above to Parmelee. He looked to me like a crazy man or a man in a towering rage. He was like a mad bull infuriated. I waited at the foot of the stairway a half-hour but the man did not return.

LEW KAHRS

testified: Last Friday afternoon about 2:30 o'clock the old gentleman who just testified came to Jim Gossage and I at the First National Bank corner and told me about a man threatening to kill Parmelee in 30 minutes. We went to the floor of Parmelee's stair and waited awhile but no one came. Yesterday morning about 11 o'clock, I went up to Parmelee's office and saw Condon lying on the floor face downward. Parmelee was standing by a table. He said "Lew, I did it, here I am." Condon was barely breathing and soon expired. Condon was a brakeman on the Missouri Pacific Railway.

C. H. STREET

testified: Yesterday morning at 11:25 o'clock I went to Parmelee's office. There were two or three people at the door. I looked in and saw A. W. Winzenburg and Mr. Parmelee were standing side by side. Condon was on the floor. At Winzenburg's request, I went for a physician and officer. I met Lew Kahrs and we went back together. Parmelee said, "there is the man's coat, there is the man, here is the pistol, here I am and I give myself up."

JAMES GOSSAGE

testified: Friday afternoon, in company with Kahrs, I went to watch Parmelee's stairway at the request of an old man, who said a man was about to kill Parmelee. After waiting awhile I went upstairs to Parmelee's

office. Did not see Condon Friday. Saw him yesterday morning.

J. H. HEUKEL

testified: "In 1888 I paid a note for Condon and Condon gave me his note for the amount. I gave the note to Parmelee for collection." The coroner here stopped the evidence of this witness as being immaterial.

E. J. SMITH.

testified: "I know W. J. Condon—I knew there was trouble between him and Wm. Parmelee. Saw Condon alive yesterday. He was at my office and I had some talk with him. He did not mention Parmelee's name in my office, yesterday. Saturday I wrote a paper and Condon and Parmelee both signed it. I addressed it to the paymaster of the Missouri Pacific railway and told him to mail it. He afterwards said he did so. That paper was intended to settle all differences between Condon and Parmelee. Saturday I asked Condon to go to Parmelee's office with me. He refused and said he would threaten Parmelee if he went then. I saw a threatening letter Condon wrote to Parmelee."

THE CORONER'S JURY

retired at 4 o'clock, at 5:15 returned the following

VERDICT:

"We, the undersigned coroner's jury, after mature deliberations, find that W. J. Condon came to his death from a bullet fired from a pistol in the hands of Wm. Parmelee."

E. E. Johnston, foreman; Richard Ritter, Geo. Wirthers, Jno. W. Tripp, Jas. O'Brien, W. S. Jackson.

EMIL MUEHL,

Coroner.

PARMELEE'S STATEMENT

as follows was then read to the jury by Mr. Lamm:

SEDALIA, Mo., Wednesday, Feb. 9, 92.

Out of respect not only to the coroner's jury but to the just demands of the public, I make this statement: The trouble has left me in no condition at this time to make a full and connected narration of all the facts which otherwise I would gladly give. In the litigation with Condon I only did what I honestly considered my duty as a lawyer in the interest of my client. Mr. Condon had as I understood his attorney, first Mr. Cashman and then Mr. Smith. I thought I had settled all or was about to settle the case satisfactorily with Mr. Cashman, but Condon wrote me not only an abusive but a threatening letter and there was a hitch in the negotiations between Mr. Cashman and I. I showed the letter to Mr. Cashman, after that Mr. Smith negotiated with me for Condon. I thought the matter wholly settled, and an agreement in writing was made to settle on a certain basis. There was some delay. Smith was looking after it, and I believed the papers were sent off by him, but did not get around right away. On Friday I believe of last week Condon came to my office and threatened my life. Others were present and they can tell what occurred. I think I showed the threatening letter to Mr. Smith, also to Prosecuting Attorney. It was on account of the family of Condon and a desire to have no further trouble about the matter with him that I was prevailed upon by my friends not to have him arrested after he sent it. On last Friday the officers were called upon to prevent Condon coming to my office to do me mischief. On yesterday he came twice, the first time, I think Doctor Collins heard part of what happened. Mr. Condon came back afterward and I was sitting at the table writing, he undertook to compel me to do as he demanded then and there. He assaulted me by approaching me in a threatening attitude, and undertaking to draw, as I honestly believed a weapon, I could only judge what he intended to do from his language, his movements, his anger and conduct at the time, and at prior times. I then reached quickly in a drawer, drew my weapon therefrom and presented it, and in my agitation and fear told him to stand back and throw up his hands. He did neither and I shot twice. I believed at the time that in his fury, he was about to undertake to kill me and carry out his threats. I do not undertake to give the details. This is the substance, and in the present distress and agitation caused by the awful affair, I ask the jury to excuse me from making any further statement at this time.

WM. PARMELEE.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this February 10th, 1892.

P. H. SANGREE,

Notary Public, Pettis Co., Mo.

My commission expires Oct. 3, 1893.

[SEAL.]

HIS BOND.

The bond was placed at \$10,000, and was given and accepted. His bondsmen are J. C. Parmelee, C. G. Taylor and Wilbur Jackson.

THE PRELIMINARY TRIAL

will be held at 10 o'clock next Saturday morning before Justice Fisher.